

MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org
The Mineral Mite



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March 2017

50 Years 1967 - 2017

March 22 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22206

Program: Prospecting in Paris

Michael and Karen Pabst will present this month's program. They will describe their visit last November to two of the three world-class mineral museums in Paris. The three museums are:



1. The National Museum of Natural History, where they were able to photograph a special exhibit, "Treasures of the Earth".

2. Minerals Collection at the *University of Pierre and Marie Curie*, where they visited the museum, but could not photograph, so instead have pictures from a book. The book is by one of Michael's photography heroines, Nelly Bariand, whose husband Pierre was the long-time curator.

3. Mineralogy Museum at *Mines Paris Tech*, which they did not visit on this trip, but have visited in the past. (Urgent business at Versailles and an unfortunate schedule of opening days interfered with a visit this time.)

Michael and Karen skipped the Louvre to bring you these mineral photos, so everyone must show up and stay awake!

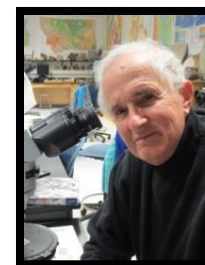
Photo of the Month



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President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean



I look forward to our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on March 31 - April 1. Dr. Michael Wise from the Smithsonian will enlighten us on micro minerals in pegmatites and lots of other info on pegmatites. I have heard his talks on pegmatites at NVMC. Every Summer we got to Buffalo Creek, Colorado, which is located a few miles from the South Platte NYF pegmatites, which is one of the four pegmatites enclosed in the Pike's Peak batholith.

This is our conference. Please sign up to help out on setup on Friday, March 31 from 4-6pm, and take down on Saturday, April 1 at 9pm. Thank you Kathy for getting us organized at the January and February meetings to help out.

We have an opportunity to demo our micromineral craft at the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County GLMSMC show from 10am-6pm on Saturday, March 18 and 11am- 5pm on Sunday, March 19. We need a demo person especially 3-5pm on Sunday.

**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference
March 31–April 1, 2017**

Featured speaker:

Dr. Michael A. Wise, Geologist at the National Museum of Natural History Smithsonian, Washington D.C.

Details p. 6

Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/22/17

By: Bob Cooke, Secretary

President Dave MacLean called the meeting to order at 8 PM. Seven members were present; there were no past Presidents. Minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in *The Mineral Mite*.



Treasury: Michael Pabst gave the Treasurer's report. He also stated that he had sold most of the remaining stock from the Doug Rambo inventory and had recouped the Club's acquisition cost. Hemostats are still available at greatly reduced prices.

New Business: Dave MacLean circulated a card to send to Gerry Cox who has pancreatic cancer.

Dave encouraged members to volunteer for remaining shifts at the MNCA demonstration table at the GLMS-MC mineral show on March 18 & 19. This year the club table will be on the inner ring, not against the wall. Dave Fryauff will bring micromounts donated by Andy Dietz and Pat Haynes for viewing and sale at the demonstration table. Loupes will also be available for sale.

Old Business AMC: Kathy Hrechka discussed preparations for the Atlantic Micromounters Conference on March 31 / April 1. So far, Barbara Sky and Al Pribula will be the only vendors, so it may not be necessary to rent an additional room from the hotel. Kathy circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteer positions.

Designs for a new MNCA nametag were discussed, but any decisions were deferred to a future meeting. Mike Pabst agreed to search his archives and provide a sketch of the previous nametag design.

Michael Pabst agreed to give a presentation on "Prospecting in Paris" at next month's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

**Membership Dues are Due: 2017
Single = \$15. Family = \$20.**

**Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer
270 Rachel Drive
Penn Laird, VA 22846**

Previous Program Reviewed: 2/22/17

By: Bob Cooke, Secretary

Kathy Hrechka presented a talk on "Minerals of Japan" from the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo, Japan.

The National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo, Japan

Kathy Hrechka shared her recent airline travels to the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo, Japan. She flew over the Comstock Seamount, through the Aleutian Trench, and past the Emperor Seamounts in business class, to bring her geology program in a Power point format.



Minerals in Japan: Minerals and rocks are important not only for their economic value, but also as materials that can tell us about the behavior of the elements from Earth's beginnings until the present.

While not occupying much surface area, the Japanese Islands is home to a rich variety of minerals. This fact tells us that Japan is a complex composition of small geological units, as well as a home to the kind of intense tectonic and volcanic activity that is rarely seen anywhere else in the world.



Workshop: Members sorted through micromounts donated by Lance Kearns, and identified specimens for Michael to photograph for our upcoming AMC auction. *Photos courtesy of Kathy Hrechka*

Chromian Wulfenite

By Michael Pabst

We recently examined Molybdoformacite, a mineral that may contain both chromium and molybdenum:



The ideal formula contains only molybdenum, but in real life chromium may substitute. Another example of a mineral that may contain both chromium and molybdenum is Wulfenite, with ideal formula PbMoO_4 , but in some locations there is also chromium $\text{Pb}(\text{MoO}_4, \text{CrO}_4)$. One such location is the Santa Ana Mine, Tocopilla, Antofagasta, Chile. Chromium might contribute to the bright orange-red color of Wulfenite from this locality. The color is reminiscent of Crocoite PbCrO_4 , which is the pure lead chromate. A few years ago, many of us were given samples of Wulfenite from the Santa Ana Mine by Maureen Campeau of Simkev Micromounts.



For a pretty picture of Chromian Wulfenite by one of the great Mindat photographers, Yaiba Sakaguchi, please click this link: www.mindat.org/photo-565701.html.

Photo below

Wulfenite (variety Chromian Wulfenite) from the Santa Ana Mine, Tocopilla District, Tocopilla Province, Antofagasta Region, Chile. Photo by Michael Pabst. FOV 17 mm. Olympus 60 mm macro lens with focus bracketing, stacking 23 images with CombineZP.



Chromian Wulfenite continued

In the Periodic Table, molybdenum is above chromium; and tungsten is above molybdenum. Because they share similar chemical and physical properties, these three elements can substitute for each other in minerals. In future articles, we will progress to molybdenum and tungsten minerals. But before we leave chromium minerals, I would like to mention two chromium minerals that, alas, I will probably never get to photograph: Cassedanneite and Yedlinite.

Cassedanneite $Pb_4(VO_4)_2(CrO_4)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ is both a vanadate and chromate. Cassedanneite is tiny, rare, yellow and monoclinic. It would have been an ideal mineral to picture as we transitioned from vanadates to chromates, but I have not been able to get my camera on any of this rare mineral. (I might be able to take a better photo than most of the photos on Mindat.) Here is the best Mindat picture: www.mindat.org/photo-64868.html.

Yedlinite $Pb_6CrCl_6(O,OH,H_2O)_8$ is a tiny, rare, purple, trigonal, and beautiful mineral. (Tony Nikischer of Excalibur Minerals told me that, years ago, the last time he had a Yedlinite available, it sold for about \$1500.) Yedlinite is named after the famous micromineralogist, Neal Yedlin. (I do have a sample of Nealite $Pb_4Fe(AsO_3)_2Cl_4 \cdot 2H_2O$, which was also named after Neal Yedlin.) Here is my favorite Mindat photo of Yedlinite by the great photographer, Vincent Bourgoïn: www.mindat.org/photo-328532.html. This beautiful specimen comes from the Mammoth-St. Anthony Mine, Tiger, Pinal County, Arizona. I love the purple color; I love this locality; and I love rare chromium minerals, so I covet this specimen. (The full text of the tenth commandment reads: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. — Exodus 20:17.)

Next time, we will look at, but not covet, molybdenum minerals.

Smithsonian Fossil Presentation 3/30

Submitted by Robert Clemenzi

“Survivors - What Fossils Tell Us about the Past and Future”

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Q?rius Theater, Ground Floor, National Museum of Natural History
10th St. and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20013

http://go.si.edu/site/Calendar?id=101621&view=Detail&s_src=nmnh_email_nmnh_er&s_subsrc=midmo_1702_text

Robert Hazen Video

Submitted by Robert Clemenzi

Scientists have identified 208 new minerals that owe their existence wholly or in part to humans. The 208 man-mediated minerals are listed by Prof Hazen and colleagues in a paper just published by the American Mineralogist.

George Mason University Professor, Bob Hazen's team is part of the Deep Carbon Observatory, an international network of nearly 1000 multi-disciplinary scientists committed to investigating the quantities, movements, forms, and origins of carbon in deep Earth. Open link below

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-39133897>



Lead-containing **nealite** is another mineral produced where seawater met slag.

Tucson, Arizona Show February, 2017

By George Loud

Tucson was tiring but fun. My bum right knee limited me somewhat but I managed to visit probably every room of interest in the old Inn Suites, the Westward Look show, the 22nd Street show, the Main Show and a new venue/show established in old movie theaters at 1055 W.



Grant by Bill Sheldon, Marcus Origlieri, and a third party. Minerals Unlimited and Mike Shannon were at this new show where prices were somewhat more reasonable. At the latter show we encountered David and Leslie Nanney.

My favorite specimen at the show was the "Alma Rose" owned by the Rice museum. Among items available for sale, my favorite was a cluster of diverging Amethyst scepter crystals from Hallelujah Junction, NV offered at \$75,000.00. Would the club be willing to give me a loan to cover the purchase price?

Bob Morgan and I once again roomed together in a decrepit, small RV for \$65 a night (split between us). Will never do it again but that is what I said last year, Saturday day we attended a Mining Antiques show. One vendor had a Dahlonega, GA stock certificate which I greatly coveted but the \$400.00 price tag caused us to take a pass. Saturday night we went to the invitation-only reception at U of A. Unfortunately, that reception had been Friday night - we were one day late. However, all was not lost because we viewed the U of A collection - Wow!

Sunday we attended the Super Bowl party hosted by Vera Schlichter and John Ebner. Lots of micromounters were there including Joe Marty as well as Skip Simmons, Carl Frances, Shields Flynn and many others. You got to see the Micromounters' Museum John Ebner has put together in the house he bought in Tucson, which is probably unique in all the world. John and Vera will be at the Mid-winter gathering in Dowling Park, Florida, the 23rd-25th of this month, as will I.

Friday morning, the 10th, I attended the Arthur Roe Micromounters Symposium - talks by Bob Rothenberg (collecting Arkansas) and Ron Gibbs (Old Reliable Mine, Arizona). Both talks were excellent. Picked up a Rongibbsite from Ron. Friday the 10th was also the date of a memorial service for Joe Ruiz, a widely loved and respected collector of Mammoth, Arizona who had died the previous week. Ruizite is a hydrous calcium and manganese silicate which occurs in beautiful microcrystals at the Christmas mine in Arizona and which was named after Joe Ruiz. A few years ago myself and Tom Tucker were fortunate to be present at the dumps of the Cornwall Iron mine in Pennsylvania when Ruizite was discovered there in a single boulder - a seemingly freak occurrence.

Visited Tombstone and Bisbee and had a great time, but it was also great to get home again and to be home for Valentine's Day.



GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

tuberose (tu'-ber-ose) Said of a mineral whose form is that of irregular, rootlike shapes or branches.

mean refractive index (a) The median *index of refraction* for any crystalline substance, with variation due to zoning. (b) The median index of refraction in any microcrystalline substance for which specific index values related to crystal directions are not determinable. (c) In a biaxial crystal, the beta, N_y or N_m index of refraction (in which y or m = mean). This is not the average index.

All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

44th Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference March 31 – April 1, 2017 Presented by The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Our featured speaker is Dr. Michael A. Wise, Geologist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He will give three lectures.

- #1. Smithsonian Micromount Collections
- #2. Microminerals Related to Pegmatites
- #3. Tanzanite

We are looking forward to his presence, as he knew many of our legacy club members.



Photo Dr. Michael Wise at Smithsonian

Biography: Dr. Michael Wise has been studying pegmatites all over the world for the past 30 years. His research focuses on the chemistry of rare minerals to understand how pegmatites form and evolve. These same rare minerals can also be used to help locate potential new deposits of economic significance.

Mike's research has included studies of pegmatites in the New England states, California, Colorado, Nevada, North Carolina, and Virginia. He also visited sites with pegmatites in Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, Madagascar, and Namibia. Mike is heavily involved in managing the Smithsonian's Gem and Mineral Collections. He is also very active in the museum's education and outreach. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Manitoba in 1987.

Saturday 7pm: Scott Duresky will present "Newly-Identified Members of the Microlite Group from the Historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite at Amelia Courthouse, Virginia".

50th Anniversary of MNCA

Recognitions go to Jennie & Paul Smith, Fred Schaefermeyer, George Reimherr, Erich Grundel, and charter member Cynthia Payne.

Location: Springhill Suites by Marriott,
6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303
Phone (571) 481-4441

Registration: Kathy Hrechka,
MNCA Conference Chair kshrechka@msn.com

Details are posted on our club website: Tab Events
Conference www.dcmicrominerals.org

We Want to Hear How You Became Interested in Micromounting!

**As part of our 50th anniversary
publication, please write a paragraph
or two on how, and when you began
"Micromounting."**

Simply include:

- * **Your profession / retired**
- * **Year you began micromounting**
- * **Who inspired you?**
- * **Why you are a micromounter?**
- * **Something unique about you**

Submit to kshrechka@msn.com

50th Anniversary – GOLD

Micro mineral donations are needed for the "silent" and "live auction".

Bring your micromount donations to our next meeting, or mail them to:
Michael Pabst
270 Rachel Drive
Penn Laird, VA 22846

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

AFMS Show & Convention June 9-11 in Ventura, California

An Invitation to Exhibit at This Year's National Show
On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I invite you to exhibit in this year's national AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. Enter either a competitive or a noncompetitive display—or one of each! Go to the show website at <2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com> to access and download entry forms by clicking on "Files and Entry Forms." You'll also find a direct link to the AFMS Uniform Rules manual. The deadlines are May 22 for noncompetitive entry forms and April 30 for competitive forms, so don't delay.

Exhibiting is fun! When displaying at a gem show, we not only get to show off our collections and handiwork but also to learn from others, seeing display techniques, getting advice, sharing tips, and forging bonds of friendship through mutual interests. There is a host of trophies for adult exhibitors, including a special trophy for nervous first-time Novice Exhibitors sponsored by the hosting Ventura society. Kids entering either competitive or noncompetitive displays can earn the Showmanship badge in our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and those entering competition can strive for both trophies and the AFMS Lillian Turner Award. Several years ago, Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, generously donated funds to support an award for the best junior's exhibit at the annual AFMS Show. The award consists of a certificate, a \$100 bond, and a mineral specimen and is presented at the Show Awards Ceremony. I guarantee that adults and kids who choose to display in Ventura will find the experience both rewarding and fun!

By: Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS/AFMS Show
Publicity Chair

**Communication and Involvement
Are the Keys to Our Success!**

Geology Events:

March:

18-19: GLMSC Spring Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Maryland

22: MNCA Meeting "Prospecting in Paris" by Michael and Karen Pabst - Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, VA 7:45 – 10 pm

27: NVMC Meeting Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, VA 7:45 – 10 pm

31–April 1: MNCA Atlantic Micromounters' Conference

***Featured speaker – Dr. Michael Wise
Geologist at the Smithsonian National
Museum of Natural History in D.C.**

***Location - SpringHill Suites Marriott
6065 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22303**

April:

5: MSDC Meeting - Michael Pabst

**7-9: The Annual NY-NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem &
Jewelry Show** Edison, New Jersey

<http://www.ny-njgemshow.com/index.php>

29: Sterling Hill Super Dig

**29-30: Annual Spring Franklin Gem & Mineral
Show & Swap**, Franklin Elementary School,
Washington Ave. Franklin, NJ – and they are
making arrangements to access previously closed
portions of the Buckwheat Dump – but you have to
register early.

**29-30: Ogdensburg, New Jersey – Annual
Sterling Hill Garage Sale**

**29-30: Franklin, New Jersey - Annual Earth
Science Association Show at the Washington
School**

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.

53rd Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show March 18 & 19

At the Montgomery County Fairgrounds 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Sunday 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M

Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County

Admission is \$6.00, ages 12 and older. Admission is Free for Children (11 and under), Free for Scouts in Uniform.

To get a \$1 off coupon please go to the club website: http://www.glmsmc.com/show.shtml

Plenty of Free parking for the show

Enjoy free workshops and demonstrations on gold panning, jewelry making, Cabochons, United States Geological Survey, Gravity is Optional/Physics (Saturday only) and more.

More than 20 dealers will have gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and crystals for sale. Over 40 exhibits, raffle, door prizes, free specimens for kids, and/or get more information about specimens from your own collection. Those under 18 can dig for free specimens in the kid's mini-mines!



Patuxent Lapidary Guild, Inc. Annual Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Jewelry Show April 22nd, 2017 10am to 5pm Earleigh Hts VFC Rte 2 Severna Park, MD 21146 Admission \$6.00, children under 10 and Veterans Free \$1.00 discount with this coupon

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area Meeting: The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m. Long Branch Nature Center, (Except Easter & Dec.) 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington VA 22204

MNCA Purpose: To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy, and related sciences.

Pres: Dave MacLean, dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com Vice Pres: David Fryauff, fryauffd@yahoo.com Secretary: Bob Cooke, rdotcooke@verizon.net Treasurer: Michael Pabst, Michaeljpabst@yahoo.com Editor/ Historian: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com Website: Julia Hrechka, dcmicrominerals@gmail.com Conference: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com

The society is a member of:

- * Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) www.amfed.org/efmls *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org Affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2016 \$15 (single) or \$20 (family) Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer 270 Rachel Drive Penn Laird, VA 22846



Editor's Note: By Kathy Hrechka



Send your articles and photos to your editor. Club Article Deadline is 5th of each month. The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 10th. No newsletter July/August

EFMLS Editor's Award First Place 2016 - Small Bulletins



- Member inputs: *Robert Clemenzi *Dave MacLean *Michael Pabst * Bob Cooke *Kathy Hrechka *George Loud

